

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 CU-02 BIB-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01
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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3137
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1904

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CSCE, SHUM, CZ
SUBJECT: CHARTER 77 ATTACKS CZECHOSLOVAK CULTURAL POLICY

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REF: PRAGUE 1868

1. SUMMARY: LATEST CHARTER 77 DOCUMENT ATTACKS HUSAK REGIME'S
CULTURAL POLICY FOR ITS VIOLATIONS OF CZECHOSLOVAK CONSTITUTION
AND PROVISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL PACTS TO WHICH CSSR IS PARTY.
DOCUMENT LISTS NAMES OF CZECH AND SLOVAK WRITERS WHOM REGIME HAS
SUPRESSED. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARTER DOCUMENT NO 12, DATED JUNE 30 AND ISSUED OVER NAME OF FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER JIRI HAJEK, OPENS BY CITING ARTICLE 28 OF CZECHOSLOVAK CONSTITUTION, WHICH GUARANTEES ALL CITIZENS THE RIGHT OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, AND GOES ON TO CHARGE THAT ONE WOULD BE HARD PUT TO FIND A TIME AND PLACE WHEN SO MANY WRITERS HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM PUBLISHING AS IN POST-1968 CZECHOSLOVAKIA. IN ALL, THERE ARE 350-400 WRITERS WHO HAVE BEEN SILENCED, INCLUDING SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST TALENTED CRITICS, POETS, ESSAYISTS, NOVELISTS, DRAMATURGISTS, HISTORIANS, SOCIOLOGISTS AND PHILOSOPHERS. ABOUT 90 ARE EFFECTIVELY EXCLUDED FROM CZECH LITERATURE BECAUSE THEY LIVE ABROAD. SIGNIFICANTLY, MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNION OF WRITERS HAS FALLEN FROM ALMOST 400 IN 1968 TO 164 OFFICIALLY-FAVORED WRITERS IN 1977. THE NUMBER OF PERIODICALS DEVOTED TO LITERATURE AND ART HAS LIKEWISE FALLEN: TODAY THERE IS ONLY ONE MONTHLY PUBLISHED IN A SMALL EDITION. THE DOCUMENT CONCLUDES BY CITING RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE U.N. COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS AND CALLING FOR THEIR ENFORCEMENT.

3. AN APPENDIX TO DOCUMENT LISTS 130 CZECH AUTHORS SAID TO HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF REGIM'S POLICY. IT READS LIKE INDEX OF TEXTBOOK ON MODERN CZECH LITERATURE, BUT ALSO, WE SHOULD ADD, LIKE A DIRECTORY OF CZECH DISSIDENTS.

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4. ONE PARAGRAPH OF DOCUMENT LISTS TWENTY-FIVE SLOVAK AUTHORS, WITH WHOM WE ARE LESS FAMILIAR, ALSO SAID TO BE VICTIMS OF REPRESSION.

5. COPIES OF CZECH-LANGUAGE TEXT BEING POUCHED TO EUR/EE AND INR/RSE.

6. COMMENT: THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT THE CHARTER 77 GROUP, HAVING FINALLY BROUGHT FORTH THE LONG-AWAITED DOCUMENT ON CULTURAL POLICY, WILL NOW TAKE A REST, AT LEAST UNTIL CLOSER TO BELGRADE II. PRAGUE, WHERE CHARTER 77 HAS ITS ONLY STRONG ROOTS, IS NOTICEABLY DEPOPULATED THESE DAYS; WE DOUBT THAT THE NETWORK CHARTER DEPENDS ON CAN FUNCTION VERY ACTIVELY PENDING THE ABSENCE OF MANY CHARTER ORGANIZERS AND THEIR AUDIENCE. (DISSIDENTS TAKE VACATIONS TOO). UNLESS PROVOKED BY THE REGIME OR CALLED INTO ACTION BY INTERNATIONAL EVENTS, THE CHARTER 77 GROUP IS LIKELY TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE UNTIL AUTUMN.
FROWICK

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Message Attributes

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